

**Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Bureau of Communicable Disease Control
Refugee and Immigrant Health Program**

*Definition of Terms Relevant to the
Refugee Health Assessment Program*

Adjustment of Status means the process by which certain foreign nationals in the United States apply for immigrant status. Persons may have their status changed to legal permanent resident if they are eligible to receive an immigrant visa and one is immediately available. A medical examination performed by an INS-approved civil surgeon is required as part of the application process.

Alien is a term used by the Immigration and Naturalization Service and means a person who is not a citizen or national of the United States.

Amerasian refers to certain Amerasians from Vietnam admitted to the United States as immigrants under Section 584 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Program Appropriations Act, 1988 (PL No. 100-202) or as United States citizens, under title II of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Program Appropriations Acts, 1989 (PL No. 100-461), 1990 (PL No. 101-167), and 1991 (PL No. 101-513).

American Council of Voluntary Agencies Form (ACVA Form) refers to the form received by the state Department of Public Health from the United States Public Health Service Quarantine Station that contains demographic and medical information on individual refugees.

Arrival Paper means the notification form received from the Quarantine Station. The paper may be an ACVA Form, Orderly Departure Program Form, Non-Indochinese Refugee Notification, or Reception and Placement Assurance Form. All contain relevant demographic information.

Asylee means a foreign national who cannot return to his or her country of origin or last residence because of persecution or the well-founded fear of persecution because of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion, as determined by the State Department or the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). An asylee applies for and receives this status after entering the United States.

Case Management Agency means an agency under contract to the Massachusetts Office for Refugees and Immigrants to perform certain functions under the Massachusetts Refugee Resettlement Program (MRRP) including, but not limited to, (1) working with refugees and employment services agencies to develop a Family Employment Plan designed to employ at least one adult in the shortest possible times and lead to self-sufficiency for the family; (2) tracking the progress of the Family Employment Plan; (3) linking refugees with appropriate services and programs; (4) determining initial and ongoing eligibility for Transitional Cash and Medical Assistance.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is the federal agency responsible for promoting health and quality of life by preventing and controlling disease, injury, and disability. The Division of Quarantine is responsible for the general oversight of the medical examination

process both in the United States and abroad.

Civil Surgeon means a physician approved by the Immigration and Naturalization Service district office to conduct the medical examinations of applicants for adjustment of status, or other aliens referred by the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Class A Condition means an excludable medical condition (e.g., infectious tuberculosis, HIV infection, physical or mental disorder with associated violence that may pose a threat, drug abuse or addiction) diagnosed in a refugee during the overseas medical examination. Class A conditions require approved waivers for United States entry and require immediate follow-up.

Class B Condition means a physical or mental abnormality, disease, or disability serious in degree or permanent in nature amounting to a substantial departure from normal well-being diagnosed during the overseas medical examination. Class B designations indicate a need for follow-up soon after arrival in the United States by appropriate medical personnel.

Cuban/Haitian Entrant means a person who is granted parole status or special status under the United States immigration laws for Cubans and Haitians.

Date of Entry means the date the refugee entered the United States. For Cubans and Haitians, this is the date entrance status is granted.

Department of Justice is the federal agency that enforces federal laws. The Immigration and Naturalization Service is part of the Department of Justice and is responsible for enforcing the Immigration and Nationality Act.

Department of State is the federal agency responsible for international policies, programs and activities of the United States. The Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration has the responsibility of formulating policies on population, refugees, and migration, and for administering United States refugee assistance and admissions programs.

Health Assessment means the comprehensive assessment of newly arrived refugees organized and overseen by the Department of Public Health that includes:

- Follow-up of conditions identified overseas;
- Evaluation and diagnostic services to determine health status and identify health problems;
- Referral for follow-up of health problems identified;
- Education/orientation to local health care services;
- Linkage with primary health care services.

Health Assessment Provider means the providers contracted by the Department of Public Health to deliver health assessment services.

I-94 is the Immigration and Naturalization Service document that records each non-permanent resident alien's arrival in, and departure from, the United States. It identifies the period of time for which the alien is admitted and the alien's immigration status.

Immigrant means an individual admitted to the United States as a lawful permanent resident. They may be issued immigrant visas by the Department of State overseas or adjusted to permanent resident status by the Immigration and Naturalization Service in the United States.

Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) is the Act that, along with other immigration laws, treaties, and conventions of the United States, relates to the immigration, temporary admission, naturalization, or removal of aliens.

Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) is the federal agency within the Department of Justice that administers immigration law.

International Organization for Migration (IOM) is the intergovernmental body, based in Switzerland, that manages refugee movements to the United States.

IOM Bag means the bag issued to refugees at the time of travel in order to carry medical and other documents, including the OF-157, immunization records and overseas chest x-rays.

MassHealth means the combined Medicaid program (Title XIX) and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in Massachusetts. MassHealth is administered by the Division of Medical Assistance.

Match Grant means a public/private partnership agreement between a VOLAG and the Department of State under which refugee resettlement costs are shared between government and a community. VOLAGs that resettle refugees pursuant to Match Grants are responsible for cash and in-kind support for refugees beyond the normal 30 days in a Reception and Placement Agreement.

Massachusetts Refugee Resettlement Program (MRRP) means the refugee resettlement program administered by the Massachusetts Office for Refugees and Immigrants. The primary purpose of the MRRP is to assist refugees to achieve durable economic self-sufficiency. It seeks to accomplish this purpose by emphasizing coordination of services, early employment and post-placement services.

Nonimmigrant means a foreign national who seeks temporary entry to the United States for a specific purpose. Included in this category are persons on student, business or tourist visas. Although refugees, parolees and other specific categories of arrivals are processed as nonimmigrants upon arrival to the United States, these classes are not included in nonimmigrant admission data.

OF-157 means the Department of State Optional Form 157 "Medical Examination of Applicants for United States Visas". This form is in the possession of the arriving refugee and contains all findings from the overseas medical examination.

Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) is the federal office within the Department of Health and Human Services that provides for the resettlement of refugees arriving in the U.S.

Office for Refugees and Immigrants (ORI) is the state agency that oversees refugee resettlement in Massachusetts.

Orderly Departure Program (ODP) means the program between the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and Vietnam that established a legal emigration program for those seeking family reunification, or those of special interest to resettlement countries (e.g., former political detainees, Amerasians). The program was established to provide an alternative to the dangerous boat departures.

Parolee means an alien who has been given permission to enter the United States under emergency conditions or when that alien's entry is considered to be in the public interest.

Port of Entry means any location in the United States or its territories that is designated as a port of entry for aliens and United States citizens. Refugees are (generally) limited to entering the country through those ports of entry with staffed Quarantine Stations.

Quarantine Station means the station at a major port of entry that is charged with preventing the importation and spread of communicable disease into the United States. Quarantine officers inspect arriving aliens and medical documents and forward copies of documents to appropriate health authorities in the resettlement location. Refugee arrivals are limited to the seven ports of entry where CDC has staff (Atlanta, Chicago, Honolulu, Los Angeles, Miami, New York City, San Francisco, and Seattle).

Reception and Placement (R&P) means the initial resettlement process and period (generally 30 days) during which a VOLAG or other sponsor under an agreement with the United States Department of State is responsible for providing assistance to the refugee to meet basic needs.

Refugee means a foreign national who cannot return to his or her country of origin or last residence because of persecution or the well-founded fear of persecution because of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion, as determined by the Department of State or the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). A refugee receives this status prior to entering the United States. [The term "refugee" is defined in Section 101(a)(42) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 USC 1101(a)(42)).]

For the purposes of the Health Assessment Program, the term "refugee" encompasses asylees as well as Cuban or Haitian Entrants. Applicants for asylum are not included except Cuban and Haitian applicants eligible under section 501 of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980.

Refugee Act of 1980 refers to Public Law 96-212, enacted in 1980. The Refugee Act established a comprehensive refugee resettlement and assistance policy. It provides mechanisms for setting annual level of admissions to the United States, authorizing refugee admissions in emergency situations, and authorized, for the first time, federal assistance to resettle refugees in the United States on a uniform basis, regardless of their country of origin.

Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) means the program of temporary cash assistance for refugees not eligible for TANF or SSI. It is funded through ORR and the period of funding is time limited by ORR, depending on availability of funds. [In 1990, the period of eligibility is 8 months from the date of entry.] In Massachusetts, the program operational name is Transitional Cash Assistance.

Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) means the program of temporary medical assistance for refugees not eligible for Medicaid. It is funded through ORR. In Massachusetts, the Division of Medical Assistance issues eligibility cards and pays medical providers for services consistent with those of the Medicaid program. The Health Assessment Program is funded by RMA through an interagency agreement with the Office for Refugees and Immigrants.

Resettlement Agency (VOLAG) means a national voluntary agency, or a local affiliate or subcontractor of a national voluntary agency, that has entered into a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement with the United States Department of State or other appropriate federal

agency to provide for the reception and initial placement of refugees in the United States.

Secondary Migrant means a refugee who initially settles elsewhere in the United States and subsequently moves to Massachusetts or moves within Massachusetts to an area outside the jurisdiction of the agency that was responsible for his or her initial resettlement.

Sponsor means the person or organization that assists an applicant in their admission to the United States.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is the federal agency, comprised of three centers that carry out the agency's mission of providing substance abuse and mental health services. The Refugee Mental Health Program is within the Center for Mental Health Services.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) means the federally funded cash assistance program for low income persons who are aged [65 years or older], blind or disabled and qualify for eligibility. Eligibility is contingent on income and provides a guaranteed minimum income based on need. Refugees, asylees, entrants, parolees, and certain other aliens may qualify for this program.

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) means the federal-state program that provides assistance to families with dependent children who meet certain financial specifications. Refugees, asylees and entrants are exempted from the bar to receiving TANF assistance during the first five years of United States residence that is applied to qualified aliens.

Transitional Cash Assistance means a program of temporary financial support for members of an assistance unit. Case Management Agencies, operating under contract to ORI, determine refugee eligibility and grant amount. ORI issues payment.

Transitional Medical Assistance means a program of temporary medical assistance for an assistance unit that is not eligible for Medicaid. Case Management Agencies determine eligibility for the program. The Division of Medical Assistance issues eligibility cards and pays medical providers for services consistent with those of the Medicaid program.

Unaccompanied Minor means refugee children under the age of 18 years arrive in the United States without a guardian and are placed in foster care.

United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) is the United Nations agency given the mandate to lead and coordinate international action for the worldwide protection of refugees and the resolution of refugee problems.

Visa Medical Examination or Overseas Medical Examination means the physical and mental examination immigrants and refugees coming to the United States complete as part of the visa application process. The purpose of the visa medical examination is to identify the presence or absence of certain disorders that could result in exclusion from the United States under the provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

VOLAG means a national voluntary agency or a local affiliate responsible for initial refugee resettlement.

References: Immigration and Naturalization Service Glossary and Acronyms
www.ins.usdoj.gov/graphics/glossary.htm

Florida Department of Children and Families, Glossary of Refugee Program and Immigration Related Terms
www.dcf.hcsys.com/

Individuals eligible for Refugee Health Assessment Program services include:

- < Refugees
- < Asylees
- < Cuban/Haitian Entrants
- < Amerasians from Vietnam

Provided that services are delivered within 90 days of U.S. entry.

Asylee: An individual who has received permission to remain in the United States, under Section 208 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), based on a “well-founded fear of persecution” should the alien return to their native land. A prospective asylee applies for this permission from United States soil, unlike a refugee who applies from abroad. Asylees of all nationalities are eligible for Refugee Health Assessment Program services within 90 days of U.S. entry. Asylum applicants are not eligible unless they are Cuban or Haitian.

Cuban/Haitian Entrant: An individual admitted under Section 501 of the Refugee Education and Assistance Act of 1980.

Refugee: An individual admitted to the United States through the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) under Section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act. Persons granted this status by the INS are considered under persecution in their country of origin on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular group, or political opinion.

Amerasian: Amerasians are admitted to the United States from Vietnam. Certain Amerasians are admitted as immigrants under Section 584 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Program Appropriations Act, 1988 (PL No.100-202). Certain Amerasian are admitted as United States citizens, under title II of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Program Appropriations Acts, 1989 (PL No. 100-461), 1990 (PL No. 101-167), and 1991 (PL No. 101-513).